

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A display system for a handheld computing device, the
2 display system comprising:
3 a processing unit having a first communication port; and
4 a visual display unit separable from the processing unit, the
5 visual display unit including:
6 a visual display; and
7 a second communication port, wherein the display system
8 can be expanded from an initial or storage state to present a larger visual
9 display size, the first communication port providing communication with
10 the second communication port.

1 2. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display
2 unit can be folded or rolled to facilitate storage in a compact or stored
3 state.

1 3. The display system of claim 2, wherein the handheld
2 computing device includes a retracting mechanism, the mechanism used
3 to retract the visual display unit to store the visual display unit in its
4 compact or stored state.

1 4. The display system of claim 2, wherein the handheld
2 computing device includes a support apparatus to anchor and support the
3 visual display unit while it is in use.

1 5. The display system of claim 1, wherein the first
2 communication port is housed in a first connection housing attached to
3 the processing unit that mates with the second communication port
4 housed in a second connection housing attached to the visual display
5 unit.

1 6. The display system of claim 5, wherein the first connection
2 housing attached to the processing unit mates with the second
3 connection housing attached to the visual display unit to support and
4 anchor the visual display unit to facilitate viewing.

1 7. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display
2 unit displays data uploaded from the processing unit while the visual
3 display unit is separated from the processing unit.

1 8. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes a bi-stable visual display.

1 9. The display system of claim 8, wherein the visual display is
2 implemented using e-paper technology.

1 10. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes a power source to power the visual display unit to display
3 data while the visual display unit is separated from the processing unit.

1 11. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes memory and a microprocessor to store and retrieve data
3 uploaded from the processing unit.

1 12. The display system of claim 11, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes a navigation apparatus to allow the user to access data
3 stored in the memory associated with the display system.

1 13. The display system of claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 communication ports include wireless transceivers.

1 14. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display is
2 at least partially transparent.

1 15. The display system of claim 14, wherein the visual display
2 includes a transparent shutter layer.

1 16. A handheld computing device comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a first communications port attached to the handheld
4 computing device;
5 an information storage system; and
6 a visual display unit detachable from the handheld computing
7 device, including:
8 a visual display, and
9 a second communication port, wherein the visual display unit
10 can be expanded from a compact state.

1 17. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the
2 visual display unit includes random access memory and a second
3 processor.

1 18. The handheld computing device of claim 17, wherein the
2 second processor can access information stored on the random access
3 memory for display on the visual display.

1 19. The handheld computing device of claim 18, where the
2 visual display unit includes a navigation apparatus to instruct the
3 processing unit to access information in the random access memory for
4 display on the visual display.

1 20. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein
2 information is displayed on the visual display while the display unit is
3 detached from the handheld computing device.

1 21. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the
2 visual display unit includes a bi-stable visual display that can display
3 uploaded information without power requirements.

1 22. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the
2 visual display unit includes a power source.

1 23. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the
2 visual display unit can be folded or rolled to store in a compact state.

1 24. The handheld computing device of claim 23, wherein the
2 handheld computing device includes a storage means for the visual
3 display unit in the compact state.

1 25. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the
2 handheld computing device includes a mechanism to anchor and support
3 the visual display unit in the expanded state.

1 26. A visual display unit for a handheld computing device
2 comprising:

3 a microprocessor;
4 a storage system; and
5 a visual display, wherein the visual display unit can be
6 expanded from a compact storage state.

1 27. The visual display unit of claim 26, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes an apparatus for navigating information stored on the
3 storage system.

1 28. A method of using a handheld computer, the method
2 comprising:
3 expanding a visual display unit from a compact state to an
4 expanded state; and
5 displaying information on the visual display unit to a user.

1 29. The method of claim 28, the method further comprising:
2 detaching the visual display unit from the handheld
3 computing device.

1 30. The method of claim 29, the method further comprising:
2 communicating information from the handheld computer to
3 the visual display unit over a wireless connection.